

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01

CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:DPNCHRISTENSEN:LOF

APPROVED BY AF/S - WPONEILL

EB/CBA/OCA/BR - JFSIMMONS (INFO)

EB/ICD/ISM - MDPALAZZOLA (SUBS)

AF/EPS - AJILLSON (SUBS)

COMM/BIC/OIM - SMILLER (INFO)

----- 074372

R 072023Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, SF, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE RAILROAD AND PORT BOTTLENECKS: US  
CHROME SUPPLY PROBLEMS

REFERENCES: (A) JOHANNESBURG 0068; (B) STATE 013418;  
(C) LOURENCO MARQUES 0048

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

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1. US FIRMS CONTINUE TO ENCOUNTER INCREASINGLY SERIOUS

PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING ESSENTIAL SHIPMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME ORE. IF SHIPMENTS CONTINUE TO BE DELAYED, SEVERAL FIRMS HAVE TOLD US THEY WILL HAVE TO CLOSE CERTAIN OF THEIR US PLANTS.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF DIAMOND SHAMROCK CHEMICAL COMPANY HAVE INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT THEIR COMPANY WILL HAVE TO BEGIN SHUTTING DOWN SOME OPERATIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA IN NEXT FEW WEEKS IF SUPPLY PROBLEM NOT RESOLVED. COMPANY IMPORTS 9000 TONS/MONTH OF SOUTH AFRICAN CHEMICAL GRADE CHROMITE ORE. COMPANY REPS HAD DISCUSSED THEIR PROBLEM WITH SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND WERE INFORMED OF FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS HAVE INVITED LOURENCO MARQUES

PORT MASTER TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA TO DISCUSS PORT PROBLEMS;

(B) SAG HAS ALREADY INSTITUTED "CRASH" TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SOUTH AFRICAN RAILROAD PERSONNEL (LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS ESPECIALLY) IN ORDER TO HELP MOVE CHROME ORE FASTER;

(C) ORE LOADING IN LOURENCO MARQUES WILL BE EXPEDITED NOW THAT ORE CAN BE PLACED BY ORE TRAINS IN CENTRAL DUMP TO AWAIT SUBSEQUENT LOADING ONTO SHIPS RATHER THAN HAVING IT LOADED DIRECTLY FROM TRAIN TO SHIP, A PROCEDURE WHICH WAS

TYING UP RAILROAD ROLLING STOCK:

(D) BACKLOG OF VESSELS ARRIVING IN LOURENCO MARQUES PRIOR TO DECEMBER 2 HAS BEEN CLEARED AWAY AND ALL REMAINING BACKLOGS OF SHIPS ARRIVING SINCE THAT DATE WILL BE COMPLETELY CLEARED "WITHIN THREE MONTHS".

3. WE INFORMED DIAMOND SHAMROCK REPRESENTATIVES OF CONTENTS OF REFTELS A AND C AND PROMISED TO CONTACT OUR POSTS AGAIN FOR UPDATED APPRAISAL OF BACKLOG AT LOURENCO MARQUES AND STEPS TAKEN BY SAG AND SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS (SAR) TO REDUCE DELAYS.

4. THE REFRACTORIES INSTITUTE HAS ALSO REQUESTED, ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBER COMPANIES, ANY NEW INFORMATION ON PROBLEM OF CHROME ORE SHIPPING DELAYS.

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5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON ANY ACTION TAKEN BY SAG AND SAR TO IMPLEMENT STATEMENTS MADE BY SAR GENERAL MANAGER LOUBSER IN JANUARY 21 DISCUSSIONS WITH US CHROME IMPORTERS (REF A). WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE COMMENTS BY CONGEN LOURENCO MARQUES ON ANY CHANGES IN PRESENT PORT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR ELIMINATING BACKLOG. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PORT CONGESTION, RAIL TRANSPORTATION, CHROMIUM  
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**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MOZAMBIQUE RAILROAD AND PORT BOTTLENECKS: US CHROME SUPPLY PROBLEMS  
**TAGS:** ELTN, ETRD, SF, MZ, US  
**To:** JOHANNESBURG LOURENCO MARQUES  
**Type:** TE  
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